Issue of Cash Memos in Hindi By Mother Dairy

744. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mother Dairy provide cash memos to its customers in English which is not understood by a large section of the society knowing Hindi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when cash memos are proposed to be issued in Hindi also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since milk is purchased in small quantities by customers and since there is no sales tax on milk, the Mother Dairy is not issuing any cash memo for milk sales. The other products sold by the Mother Dairy are tax paid at source and hence no cash memo is issued for these items also.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a) above.

Sales Network of Delhi Milk Scheme

745. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make any improvement in the distribution and sales network of Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, whether additional number of counters are proposed to be opened in order to ensure smooth supply of milk to the consumers; and

(c) the steps being taken to give the benefit of DMS to the people of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a)to (c) Delhi Milk Scheme proposes to open a few additional milk booths to give more benefit to the people of Delhi.

Memorandum from MPs regarding revival of HFC and FCI

746. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum signed by Fifteen MPs was submitted to the Prime Minister on 18th December, 1996 regarding revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether the memorandum had sought PM's intervention in utilising investible surplus of profitable PSUs/ Cooperatives in Fertilizer sector for revival of these companies;

(c) whether attention has also been drawn to the funding proposal from Export Import Bank of Japan for revival of HFC; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The revival packages of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) approved in principle by the Government in April, 1995, envisaged the limited revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup units of HFC with a fresh investment of Rs. 2201.13 crore at 1994 price levels, apart from capital restructuring and financial reliefs to the undertakings. The funding arrangement for these packages could not be tied. up. an expert Group was, thereafter, constituted to reformulate the revival packages from the stand point of funding by the Financial institutions (fIs). The Group appointed a consultancy organisation to undertake an independent appraisal of the technical viability of the revival packages. The Group has submitted its report on 25.2.97. The final decision on implementation of the reformulated revival

packages would depend upon the tie up of funding arrangements and outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

The alternative of takeover of the units of FCI and HFC by any of the profit making fertilizer public sector undertakings/cooperatives was explored by the Government. Because of the commitments of these undertakings towards their own on-going expansion projects and joint ventures for augementing the fertilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise. However, KRIBHCO has evinced interest in setting up a new ammonia/urea plant at Gorakhpur, using the existing infrastructure of FCI.

A preliminary offer has been received from the Export and Import Bank of Japan for participating in the revamp of the units of HFC. The conditionalities of the proposed financial assistance require further examination.

Constitution of high power committee to review the urea pricing system

747. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a high-powered committee to review the existing system of urea pricing;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee; and

(c) the present retention price of urea of the operating units in Public, Cooperative and Private Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) A High powered Fertilizer pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology. The terms of reference of the Commitee are as follows:—

(i) To review the working of the Retention price Scheme (RPS) for fertilizers and to make suggestions for correcting the deficiencies of the system, keeping in view the broad objectives of economic reform.

(ii) To review the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the industry. Issues relating to reasonableness of return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation etc.

(iii) To suggest appropriate capital norms and debt equity ratio in respect of new fertilizer projects.

(iv) To review the input pricing policy and its impact on the RPS.

(v) To review the system of equated frieght and recommend measures to rationalize it, including minimization of cross country movement to reduce leads.

(vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and the relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.

(vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

(c) The weighted average retention price for urea units under Public, Cooperative and Private Sector is Rs. 5205/MT, Rs. 4609/MT and Rs. 6130/MT, respectively.

Profitability of Public Sector Fertilizer Companies

748. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all the public sector fertilizer companies in the country;

(b) how many of them are running at a profit for the last three years;